with sincerity of purpose as they could form a basis of a comprehensive and meaningful dialogue. Pakistan's response is awaited.

Number of Diplomatic Passports

3864. SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of Diplomatic Passports validly existing as on 1st August, 1994; and

(b) what is the number out of these which are held by non-officials like Members of Parliament etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R.L. BHATIA): (a) the total number of diploimatic passports issued at Headequarters from 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994 was 10,628. It is not possible to state how many of these remain valid since diplomatic passports are issued for periods ranging from one year to three years depending on the nature and duration of a diplomatic assignment and may be renewed for further period, if so required.

(b) For the 1.1.1985 to 1.8.1994, 1,320 diplomatic passports were issued at Headquarters to nonofficials including Members of Parliament, former Members of Parliament, Ministers and Haj Committee Members.

US Assisant Secretary of State's Statement on Indo-Pak Nuclear War

3865. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to some statements of US Assistant Secretary of State for Political Military Affairs made in June, 1994 mentioning that Indo-Pak Nucelear War is feared;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government in this regard;

(c) whether Government propose to call for more clarifications in the matter; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes Sir. The reference was incidental to the main theme of the remarks newsmen by the US Assistant Secretary for Political and Military Affairs which dealt with the DPRK nuclear issue.

(b) Government do not share the view that there is any imminent prospect of conventional or nuclear war between India and Pakistan. India, in any case, does not possess nuclear weapons.

(c) No Sir.

(d) Such statements have also been made earlier by US Government representatives. The position of the Government is well-known to the Government of the United States.

Compensation to Indian Soldiers died in UN peace keeping operation

3866. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that France and Belgium told the United Nations that the amount of compensation paid to Indian soldiers who died on peace keeping duties should be less than that paid to families of soldiers from Western countries on the plea that the manpower in developing countries is cheaper;

(b) if so, whether Government of India objected to such demand of France and Belgium; and

(c) what was the response of the United Nations with relevance to the demand of France and Belgium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) No, Sir.

However, there is an anomaly in the present system followed by the UN for payment of death compensation, according to which the compensation is only at the level at which individual countries made payments to the families of the deceased. Therefore, the families would be compensated differently depending on the nationality of the deceased soldier.